

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233163 TOSEC 270414

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOGOTA 9437 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USOECD PARIS  
16 SEP 76.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9437

STATE PASS TREASURY FOR SECRETARY SIMON

STATE FOR ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OECD, CO

REF: BOGOTA 5514, STATE 173912, OECD PARIS 26924

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 14 FROM  
FINANCE MINISTER BOTERO TO SECRETARY SIMON (ORIGINAL BEING  
POUCHED):

QUOTE

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

I AM WRITING YOU ABOUT A PROJECT THAT IS OF INTEREST TO  
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BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS TO THE CONTINUING DIALOGUE

BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT.

COLOMBIA HAS APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, OECD. ACCORDING TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE ORGANIZATION, A UNANIMOUS VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A NEW MEMBER.

AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE SEVERAL SEMI-INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN THE OECD: GREECE, PORTUGAL, TURKEY, AND NEW ZEALAND, FOR EXAMPLE. IN TOTAL SIZE OF GNP OR LEVEL OF INDUSTRIALIZATION THESE COUNTRIES DO NOT DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM COLOMBIA. THE INNOVATION, OF COURSE, CONSISTS IN THE FACT THAT SO FAR THERE IS NO REPRESENTATION FROM AFRICA OR LATIN AMERICA IN THE OECD MEMBERSHIP.

IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT COLOMBIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OECD WOULD BE A MODEST YET A POSITIVE STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF A PERMANENT, WORKING LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND THOSE OF THE SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE, NON-IDEOLOGICAL INTERCHANGE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH WILL BE AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF THE WORLD'S AGENDA DURING THE NEXT TWENTY FIVE YEARS, IF WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITHIN OUR LIFETIME.

COLOMBIA COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN GETTING THIS PROCESS UNDER WAY. IT IS A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY WITH

43)-589, 5#497&#975 5#3 5#84\$ 294)\$ (AS WELL AS THE FIRST AND SECOND WORLDS INCIDENTALLY). IT HAS A DIVERSIFIED, GROWING ECONOMY. IN 1975, FOR EXAMPLE, IT WAS ONE OF THE FEW NON-PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD THAT WAS ABLE TO REDUCE INFLATION, MAINTAIN A HEALTHY RATE OF GROWTH (4.8 PERCENT IN REAL TERMS COMPARED TO 2.6 PERCENT FOR ALL OF LATIN AMERICA) AND OBTAIN A SURPLUS IN ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. IT HAS BEEN A STRONG ADVOCATE OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND IS ALREADY PLAYING A RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ROLE, PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL COOPERATION AND NON-RECIPROCAL TRADE PREFERENCES  
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TO LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND THE ANDEAN GROUP.

WE HAVE NO SPECIAL AXE TO GRIND IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. OUR FOREIGN DEBT IS ONE OF THE LOWEST IN LATIN AMERICA AND WE HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR OUR PRINCIPAL EXPORT COMMODITY. NO UNSETTLED DISPUTES EXIST BETWEEN OURSELVES AND ANY OF THE DEVELOPED

COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT CONCEIVE OF OUR PRESENCE  
IN THE OECD COUNCILS AS A PRETENSE FOR AIRING POLITICAL OR  
ECONOMIC COMPLAINTS OR FOR REQUESTING PREFERENTIAL TREAT-  
MENT OF ANY KIND.

IN VIEW OF THE FRIENDSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO  
COUNTRIES AND THE INTEREST THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS  
EXPRESSED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN DEVELOPED  
AND DEVELOPING NATIONS, I AM HEREBY REQUESTING YOUR  
SUPPORT FOR OUR APPLICATION.

WITH BEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

YOUR SINCERELY,

RODRIGO BOTERO  
MINISTER OF FINANCE

END QUOTE

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. WE SUGGEST THAT POSITION OUTLINED STATE AND OECD  
REFTELS BE REEVALUATED BASED ON POINTS RAISED IN BOTERO'S  
LETTER. THE ARGUMENT THAT OECD IS A RESTRICTED  
FORUM FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZED STATES IS WEAKENED BY THE FACT  
THAT TURKEY AND PORTUGAL ARE ALSO BENEFICIARIES OF THE  
US GSP. THE COLOMBIAN INITIATIVE IS OBVIOUSLY SERIOUS AND  
FOR US TO APPEAR TO GIVE IT LESS THAN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION  
COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS  
AND ON OUR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE  
WITH THE MORE ADVANCED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

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UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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